

Re: FWS comments on EPA Med. suction Dredge
Kimberly_Klein
to:
Cindi Godsey
04/07/2011 03:14 PM
Cc:
Shannon_Torrence
Show Details

Cindi,

The US Fish and Wildlife Service would like to amend the comments sent to EPA on April 5th regarding potential impacts of the issuance of the medium suction dredge general permit on threatened and endangered species. Our requested amendments address a few important points.

1) On page 4 of the April 5th comments, we ask EPA to direct operators with questions regarding obtaining an individual permit to the permit administrator rather than to USFWS. We would also like to request that this direction be given consistently in all sections of the permit. The permit should indicate that the operator should first contact the permit administrator (EPA or ADEC, as appropriate) to determine whether the general permit applies. We are happy to provide EPA and ADEC with specific information about the location of critical and sensitive habitat and help the agencies determine whether the permit applies, but the operator should always be directed to first seek information from the agency with authority over the permit. We would like include the contact information for the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the text of the permit for information for the applicant, but for reference only.

2)The statement on page 4 "Intentional harassment of polar bears is prohibited" should be amended to read "Intentional harassment of polar bears, other than as authorized under the 50 CFR 18.34, is prohibited. For more information see <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FWS-R7-FHC-2010-0002-0013>".


Acceptable harassment is used only to deter a polar bear from damaging private property or endangering personal safety and not to cause the serious injury or death of a polar bear. Passive deterrence mechanisms can be used to avoid interactions with bears. These include rigid fencing and other fixed barriers used to limit a bear's access, bear exclusion cages to provide a protective shelter for people in areas frequented by bears, and bear-proof garbage containers to prevent food conditioning. *Preventive deterrence* measures can be used to dissuade a polar bear from initiating an interaction with property or people. Such measures include the use of acoustic devices to create an auditory disturbance causing polar bears to move away from the area. The use of acoustic deterrence is limited to those devices that create no more than a reasonable level of noises, *e.g.*, vehicle engines, automobile sirens, or horns, or an air horn.

Also, if any of the recommendations need clarification, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you for including these points in your consideration of our recommendations. Call or reply with questions. Thanks again

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✉ Kimberly Klein/R7/FWS/DOI

**Kimberly
Klein/R7/FWS/DOI**

To: Godsey.Cindi@epamail.epa.gov
cc: Ellen.Lance/R7/FWS/DOI@FWS
Subject: FWS comments on EPA Med. suction Dredge 

04/05/2011 05:05
PM

Cindi, Please see the attached comments from the US Fish and Wildlife service regarding the General Permit for Medium Suction Dredge Placer Mining. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this process. I look forward to your feedback. Call or reply with questions. Thank you.

[attachment "2010-0072_Statewide Medium Suction Dredge Mining_5Apr2011.pdf" deleted by Kimberly Klein/R7/FWS/DOI]

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